New York Times 6 October 1972

Nixon news conference, Q & A on Watergate investigation:

3. Watergate Investigation

Q. Mr. President, don't you think that your Administration and the public would be served considerably and that the men under indictment would be treated better, if you people would come through and make a clean breast about what you were trying to get done at the Watergate?

A. One thing that has always puzzled me about it is why anybody would have tried to get anything out of the Watergate. Be that as it may, that decision having been made at a lower level, with which I had no knowledge, and, as I have pointed out ——

Q. Surely you know now, sir.

A. I certainly feel that under the circumstances that we have to look at what has happened and to put the matter into perspective.

Now when we talk about a clean breast, let's look at what has happened. The F.B.I. has assigned 133 agents to this investigation. It followed out 1,800 leads. It conducted 1,500 interviews.

Incidentally, I conducted the investigation of the Hiss case. I know that it is a very unpopular subject to raise in some quarters, but I conducted it. It was successful. The F.B.I. did a magnificent job, but that investigation involving the security of this country, was basically a Sunday School exercise compared to the amount of effort that was put into this.

I agree with the amount of effort that was put into it. I wanted every lead carried out to the end because I wanted to be sure that no member of the White House staff and no man or woman in a position of major responsibility in the Committee for Re-election had anything to do with this kind of reprehensible activity.

Now, the grand jury has handed down indictments. It has indicted incidentally two who were with the Committee for Re-election and one who refused to cooperate and another who was apprehended. Under these circumstances, theg rand jury now having acted, it is now time to have the judicial process go forward and for the evidence to be presented.

I would say finally with regard to commenting on any of those who have been indicted, with regard to saying anything about the judicial process, I am going to follow the good advice, which I appreciate, of the members of the press corps, my constant, and I trust will always continue to be, very responsible critics.

I stepped into one on that when you recall I made inadvertently a comment in Denver about an individual who had been indicted in California, the Manson case. I was vigorously criticized for making any comment about the case, so of course, I know you would want me to follow the same single standard by not commenting on this case.

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10. Plans for Campaigning

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